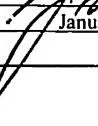




01-04-07

IFW

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10 on the date shown below as
Express Mail Receipt No. EV/32685898 US
Name: James J. Dade
Signature: 
Date: January 3, 2007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Shinya Wada
Serial No. : 10/706,617
Filed : November 12, 2003
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS . . .
Confirmation No. : 5866

January 3, 2007

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts and/or explanations are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

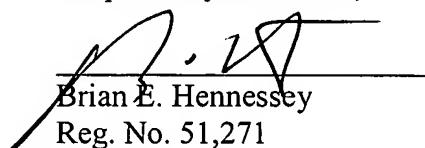
Attached is a copy of a Chinese Office Action dated November 3, 2006 for the corresponding Chinese Patent Application 200380100591.X, with translation. The report references three documents, U.S. 6,253,218, WO 98/14863 and U.S. 2002/0075322, which were previously submitted in an IDS mailed on October 8, 2004.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement, and therefore applicants respectfully submit that no fee is due. However any fee determined due with this paper maybe charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

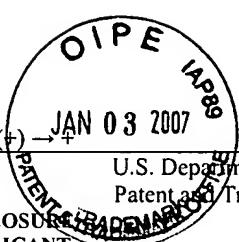
Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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1449/PTO

**U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

1449/PTO	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Application No. : 10/706,617
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Filing Date : November 12, 2003
Sheet 1 of 1		First Named Inventor: Shinya Wada
		Group Art Unit : 2167
		Examiner Name : Robert M. Timblin
		Attorney Docket No. : SCEP 20.732

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

* Mentioned in Chinese Office Action dated November 3, 2006 for corresponding Chinese Application 200380100591.X

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
		Chinese Office Action dated November 3, 2006 for corresponding Chinese Application 200380100591.X	X
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁴ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take .2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. DO NOT SES- FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.